

RACINE PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, The Racine Public Library is to be commended for its years of service to the people of Racine, WI. On October 14, 2007, the library will celebrate 75 years of preschool storytime. The Junior League of Racine, which has sponsored the storytime since it began in 1932, and the Choral Arts Society of Southeastern Wisconsin have partnered to bring to the stage a musical version of the beloved children's classic, "Julius, the Baby of the World." It will be performed for over 4,600 first- and second-grade students, and the event will celebrate both the Racine Public Library's commitment to children and Racine native and children's author Kevin Henkes. Participants in this great celebration include the Downtown Rotary Club, Friends of the Library, Hughes House, the Johnson Foundation, the Junior League of Racine, the Kiwanis Club of West Racine, Over Our Head Players, the Racine Community Foundation, and the Racine Public Library Endowment Fund. The Racine Public Library has the distinction of being the first in the Nation to present preschool storytime in 1932. Since then, the library has continued to pursue innovation and remains dedicated to children's programming.

INTRODUCTION OF FIRE
PREVENTION WEEK RESOLUTION**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution to recognize October 7–13, 2007, as Fire Prevention Week and to highlight the commitment of the Congress and the American public to honoring the courageous service of firefighters, and to underscore the importance of public awareness of fire prevention and planning.

I am glad to be joined today in introducing this bipartisan resolution by Homeland Security Committee Chairman BENNIE THOMPSON, as well as Congressmen HENRY CUELLAR, PETER KING, CHARLIE DENT, and DAVE REICHERT.

America's firefighters have never wavered in their selfless commitment to preventing the loss of lives and property, and we must maintain our commitment to recognizing the service that they perform on our behalf.

I recognize that America's firefighters demonstrate heroism and fortitude not only through their responses to fire emergencies, of which there are over 1,600,000 per year, but also through their selfless support to communities affected by emergencies of all kinds.

Firefighters come to the aid of the communities they serve during fire emergencies, at the onset of natural disasters, in response to acts of terrorism, and in the wake of any events that threatens the lives and safety of the American public.

As we reflect each year on the bravery of firefighters who risk their lives in the line of

duty, we also recognize the significant role of these individuals in providing medical care, responding to emergency rescue situations, and encouraging our communities to take measures to protect themselves from harm.

We traditionally have paired our appreciation for the honorable service of firefighters with our focus on educating the American public on fire safety methods, since the first Fire Prevention Week in 1922.

In closing, I urge the Congress to honor the sacrifices made by these courageous men and women by supporting this resolution.

HONORING LEE SENTELL AND THE
ALABAMA BUREAU OF TOURISM
AND TRAVEL FOR BEING NAMED
THE BEST IN THE SOUTH**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Lee Sentell and the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel for being named the best in the South by the Southeast Tourism Society.

This is the third time in four years that Lee and his outstanding team of professionals have received this prestigious award. The department was nominated for its "Year of Alabama" Arts campaign.

The award winning food campaign of 2005 featured a brochure of "100 Dishes to Eat in Alabama before You Die," which was selected as the best promotion in the country by the National Council of State Tourism Directors. In 2004, the agency was recognized for its garden campaign.

Alabama's tourism industry has continued to thrive under Lee Sentell's strong leadership. The industry's economic impact on the State's economy is expected to reach an all-time high of \$9 billion in 2007. Last year, over 22.3 million people visited the State of Alabama, with my home area of Mobile and Baldwin counties among the 5 most visited counties.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Mr. Sentell and all of those at the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel for being named the best in the South by the Southeast Tourism Society. For these and all their accomplishments, I extend my heartfelt thanks for their continued service to the First Congressional District and the entire State of Alabama.

RECOGNIZING RALPH W. STURGES,
MOHEGAN INDIAN CHIEF**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mohegan Indian Chief, Ralph W. Sturges. Chief Sturges died on September 30, 2007.

Chief Sturges was a renaissance man whose commitment to community and Nation knew no bounds. In 1938, following the devastation of the New England Hurricane, Chief Sturges contributed to cleanup and relief ef-

forts in eastern Connecticut under the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). After his work in the CCC, Chief Sturges joined the Army's intelligence division, serving in World War II in New Guinea and the Philippines, ultimately earning a bronze star for his service. In subsequent years, he became the Director of Public Relations for New England divisions of the Salvation Army and a board member for the Directors for Connecticut Hospice.

In 1992, prior to federal recognition of the Mohegan Nation, he was elected "Chief for Life", which he dutifully filled until his passing on September 30, 2007. In 1994, his legacy was solidified with the federal recognition of the Mohegan Nation, a cause that he inherited from his mother and tirelessly saw through to fruition. In 1996, Chief Sturges secured development plans for the Mohegan Sun, which is now one of the world's largest and most successful casinos. At every step of the way, Chief Sturges was careful to reach out to his community and neighbors making the success of Mohegan Sun a harmonious addition to southeastern Connecticut.

In addition to his military accolades, philanthropy work, business endeavors, and leadership roles, Chief Sturges was a notable artist. His sculptures have graced the halls of the Connecticut State Capitol, Montville High School, and the Mohegan Sun.

While his passing brings sadness to the Connecticut community, his legacy and contributions will be remembered for generations to come. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents to honor his life and offer condolences to his family.

CONGRATULATING MRS. JUNE
LANZ**HON. W. TODD AKIN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of my constituents, Mrs. June C. Jablonsky Lanz. June has been selected as the 2006–2007 Freedoms Foundation "Spirit of '76—American Patriot" regional award. The Freedoms Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching young people the principles upon which our Nation was founded. They work to convey the close links between the rights and the responsibilities of citizens in society.

June is a thirty-nine-year member of the National Society of Daughters of the Revolution, DAR. As State Regent of the Missouri State Society of DAR, June successfully placed the 1809 Cold Water Cemetery on the U.S. Department of the Interior's Register of Historical Places and restored and rededicated the Madonna of the Trail Statue in Lexington, Missouri.

June is a member of the Missouri Historical Society, the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge and a Friend of the St. Louis Art Museum. She has published a history of Missouri State Society Daughters of the Revolution, which includes American Revolutionary Patriots reported buried in Missouri. She has provided this to the National Society DAR and other research facilities.

Married for 55 years, June and her husband, George Lanz, have four daughters and seven grandchildren.